

Securing peace and stability requires long term commitment. The Army is not a “touch and go” force. Long term Army commitment physically demonstrates American intent and contributes to an environment of stability where nations can develop effective government institutions and viable economies. Soldiers on the ground—the most visible sign of deterrence and reassurance—directly contribute to regional stability. But regional stability does not happen overnight; it is a dangerous and complicated business. It takes time, commitment, and the continuous presence of U.S. forces. Sustained presence, with its resulting regional stability, is a mission that the Army is uniquely structured to carry out.

America’s Army sets the example for other countries seeking the proper role of an army in a democracy. In nearly every nation, the dominant armed service is the army. Many armies, however, need to learn how an army serves its nation, without running the nation. By training with U.S. Army units and participating in our institutional training programs, soldiers of emerging democracies receive important lessons in democratic values. Teaching these important lessons and training with others takes significant time and effort, but they are important contributions to regional stability.

Ultimately, land forces can occupy territory, control populations, and provide on-the-scene assurance that political objectives will be met.

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